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Approved For Release 2006/08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R012000220010-7

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Magdeburg

25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

25X1 DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 25 April 1952

25X1 REFERENCES

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 17 March 1952, a convoy of 6 trucks, each loaded with 1 pontoon and 6 U-girders, 4 meters long, 25 cm wide and 8 cm high, and 1 truck mounting a hoisting gear was seen at the Seeckt Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse, Magdeburg (T 51/D 69). 25X1
- 25X1 40 men unloaded the pontoons with the help of the hoisting gear, assembled the U-girders, whose webs were perforated, and placed them over the pontoons. 25X1
- About 120 soldiers organized into platoons practiced firing positions with rifles aiming at record targets about 100 meters away on the drill field north of the Seeckt Kaserne. About 20 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets were instructed at a battery commander's telescope 25X1 by a lieutenant.
2. On 19 March, about 70 soldiers with nine model 38 120-mm mortars drawn by soldiers moved out of the Flak Kaserne on Thomas Mann Strasse to the drill field just east of the installation. About 90 more soldiers were individually trained with rifles and practiced marching in groups.
3. All billets of the Encke Kaserne on Beinsstrasse were lighted in the evening of 19 March. Four 76-mm AA guns covered with camouflage nets were emplaced on the athletic field west of Otto Richter Strasse. The emplacement was guarded by three sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Three low wooden buildings with a capacity of quartering about 30 men each were near the AA guns. Several soldiers were noticed there.
- 25X1 4. On 12 March, an unusually large number of officers were seen entering the Encke Kaserne on Beinsstrasse by foot or in sedans. All billets were lighted at nightfall. Ten sedans and 4 trucks stood in the yard.
5. On 12 March, the buildings of the Flak Kaserne on Thomas Mann Strasse were lighted. The installation seemed to be occupied to capacity. About eight groups of six soldiers each were engaged in physical exercise on the morning of 13 March. About 12 soldiers cleaned three 37-mm AA guns in the yard. Soldiers did maintenance work on about 10 trucks in front of a garage.

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Document No. 11

No Change in Class. ☐

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Class. Changed To: TS 3 **16**

Auth: NR 70-2

Date: 14 SEP 1978

By:

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25X1 [] 6. On 5 March, the Herronkrug Kaserne on Breitscheidstrasse was occupied by an estimated 3,000 to 3,500 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers were involved in combat training at platoon level and training with T-34/85 tanks in the area along the railroad line toward Biederitz.

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7. On 3 March, the Hindenburg Kaserne at the intersection of Herronkrugstrasse and Jerichowstrasse was occupied by about 3,000 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Numerous trucks were noticed in the billeting area. Troops were involved in combat training at platoon level with rifles, submachine guns, gas masks and aiming silhouettes in the training area on Am Grossen Anger.

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8. On 5 March, the Nachrichten Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse quartered about 1,500 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. Soldiers were engaged in physical exercise in the barracks yard. No vehicular traffic was noticed.

9. On 5 March, the Seeckt Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse quartered about 2,500 troops. Sentries wore black-bordered black epaulets. Numerous vehicles with pontoons and other bridge equipment were seen in the billeting area. Troops at platoon strength, equipped with rifles and practice targets, left the installation. Troops with black-bordered black epaulets practiced driving piles at Herrenkruzbuecke (bridge).

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10. On 6 March, the Flak Kaserne on Thomas Mann Strasse was occupied by about 3,500 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 40 soldiers practiced with six mortars in the barracks yard.

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11. On 18 March, the Nachrichten Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse was occupied to capacity by an estimated 1,000 to 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. All quarters were lighted in the evenings. On 15 March, about 30 soldiers practiced aiming rifles at flying targets which were fixed on a wire about 5 meters high and represented 2 GA planes, 1 bomber and a parachutist. On 17 March, two groups of 40 men each marched to the drill grounds on Am Anger with wooden rifles and fixed bayonets and dummy soldiers. Soldiers worked on 11 repair shop trucks with van-like superstructures in the billeting area. The barracks installation consisted of 34-story buildings used as billets; a 4-story building with classrooms and mess; a 3-story building used as quarters; a 3-story building housing the administrative staff; 2 workshops; 4 brick garages; and 1 large and 1 small wooden sheds with bays. [] estimated that there were 120 trucks in the billeting area.

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12. On 6 March, the Hindenburg Kaserne at the intersection of Herrenkurgstrasse and Jerichowstrasse quartered about 1,400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. All windows were lighted at nightfall. About 120 soldiers in groups of about 10 men were engaged in firing practice with rifles and light machine guns and in combat training, especially practice attacks, on the drill grounds to the rear of the installation, north of Jerichowstrasse. All except the instructors had closely-cropped hair.

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13. On 29 February, the Flak Kaserne on Thomas Mann Strasse was occupied by an AAA unit, a rocket launcher unit and a mortar unit. Seven model 13 rocket launchers were parked along the north side of the installation. About 100 soldiers practiced with four 85-mm AA guns emplaced at the back of the installation. About 50 soldiers were trained with three searchlights in the billeting area. About 150 soldiers organized into groups of 16 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced with nine 120-mm mortars near the AA gun emplacement. Truck [] towing a 37-mm AA gun with protective shield and truck [] were identified at the installation.

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14. On 14 March, the Nachrichten Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse was occupied by about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia. Three T-34s and 2 SU-76 SP guns were seen in the barracks yard. Seven trucks, each carrying about 30 soldiers, moved toward town. On 12 March, 45 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, pulling 3 model ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns and led by an officer, entered the installation from the direction of Kleiner Anger.

15. On 14 March, the Seeckt Kaserne on Turmschanzenstrasse quartered a unit of soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets with engineer or signal insignia and red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. The quarters were about 90 percent lighted at nightfall. Seventeen soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with engineer insignia carrying four folded pneumatic rafts marched from the installation toward Kleiner Anger. About 30 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia and carrying cable reels, field telephones and climbors marched from the Kleiner Anger drill grounds into the barracks installation. Fifty trucks loaded with pontoons and planks were parked on the parking lot in the billeting area. Truck [] drove to the city. []

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16. On 14 March, the Hindenburg Kaserne quartered about 1,300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia and black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. The billets were about 70 percent lighted in the evening. On 5 March, 25 soldiers with two radio sets marched into the installation from the Grosser Anger. About 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia stood near about 20 driving-school trucks in front of the barracks installation, organized into two groups. Thirty soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying rifles and practice targets marched into the billeting area on 10 March.

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17. On 10 March, the Flak Kaserne on Thomas Mann Strasse was occupied by about 4,00 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. All billets were lighted after dusk. On 5 March, six model 39 85-mm AA guns were parked in the yard, while 180 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and organized into three units of 60 men each equipped with rifles and machine guns marched into the billeting area from the direction of Zipkeleben. On 10 March, 45 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and equipped with nine mortars left the installation toward Zipkeleben. About 60 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia marched into the installation with rifles and submachine guns. About 200 troops fell in for roll call in the yard. Four trucks of the [redacted] stood near the fuel dump of the [redacted] installation. [redacted]

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* [] Comment. The report supplements and confirms previous information on the occupation of the barracks installations in Magdeburg. []

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[] The identity and strength of the unit in the Hindenburg Kaserne are undetermined, see [] Comment of the reference report. Besides the units previously mentioned, a signal unit and a motor transport unit or driving school may be stationed in the barracks installation. []

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[] The rocket launchers mentioned in the present report are believed to belong to the 19th Gds Mecz Div. As rocket launchers have also been observed in the Flak Kaserne with the unit returning from the maneuvers in the fall of 1951, the unidentified Gds rocket launcher battalion of the 19th Gds Mecz Div can now be carried there. []

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